

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**  
**CONTINGENCY PLAN Q & A DOCUMENT**  
**APRIL 8, 2011**

We continue to hope that Congress will reach an agreement to avoid a government shutdown, but we are working to prepare for all possible scenarios. The following document provides information about the National Park Service's contingency plans in the event of a government shutdown.

**Are national parks open?**

No. As a result of the shutdown of the federal government, all 394 national parks are closed. Examples include: Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, Washington Monument, White House Visitor Center, Independence Hall, Yellowstone National Park.

- all park entrances are closed and secured
- visitor centers and other facilities are closed
- education programs and special events are canceled
- permits for special events are rescinded
- guests staying in hotels and campgrounds have been given 48 hours to leave
- a small number of National Park Service employees remain to protect park resources

**What about roads through parks?**

While the national parks are closed, roads that serve as thruways will remain open.

**How many visitors are affected by the shutdown?**

In April, national parks across the nation average a total of 805,000 visits per day.

**When will the parks reopen?**

We will reopen national parks as soon as the shutdown is over.

**What events have been canceled because of the shutdown?**

Nearly 400 events are listed in our online event calendar for April 9-15, including:

- April 12 – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, first shots of the Civil War, Fort Sumter NM
- April 14 – Opening of new visitor center in Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- April 15 – Reopening of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Martin Luther King, Jr. NHS
- April 16 – Dedication of President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home NHS
- April 16-24 – National Park Week activities nationwide

**I have a reservation to stay at a park hotel; can I get my deposit back?**

This is a question each individual park concessioner will address.

**I'm already staying in a park hotel/campground can I remain during the shutdown?**

No. Visitors in overnight accommodations and campgrounds will be given 48 hours to leave the park.

**What's the economic impact on gateway communities?**

Averaged over the year, national park visitors spend \$32 million per day in local economies.

**Will the National Park Service's website work during the shutdown?**

No. Because National Park Service employees who maintain the website will not be on duty to keep information current, [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) will be shutdown just like a national park.

**What other National Park Service operations are affected by the shutdown?**

During the shutdown the National Park Service will not:

- List properties in the National Register of Historic Places
- Process grant applications
- Take reservations for camping, boat tours or other activities
- Review applications for federal historic rehabilitation tax credits
- Provide technical assistance to community-based recreation projects

**What happens to rangers during the shutdown?**

For the duration of the shutdown, all federal employees including rangers are furloughed. A limited number of National Park Service employees needed to secure parks and provide law enforcement, emergency services, and firefighting are exempt from the furlough.

**How many National Park Service employees remain on duty?**

About 3,000.

**How many National Park Service employees are furloughed?**

Nearly 17,000.